



California

Castroville Amphibious Training Area

Facility and Location

Castroville Amphibious Training Area Bombing Target (BT) No. 8 was established in April 1944 as a subordinate site to the Naval Auxiliary Air Station in Watsonville. In June of 1944, the site was transferred to the Coast Guard to establish and operate a direction finder net and became known as the Castroville Direction Finder Station. In August of 1944, the cancellation of the lease for the bombing area near Castroville was approved. In May of 1958, the facilities at the Castroville Direction Finder Station were identified by the Coast Guard as excess. The site remained inactive from 1958 to 1961. In July of 1961, the Army began using the site in connection with Fort Ord to test newly conceived amphibious vehicles. The entire site was transferred to the Army in April of 1967. In December 1972, the Army identified it as never used and excess.

The entire property was conveyed to the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife in 1973 and operated as a Wildlife Management Area in cooperation with the California Department of Fish and Game until 1991. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service subsequently changed the designation to a wildlife refuge (the Salinas River National Wildlife Refuge) which is currently operated as part of the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex and a migratory bird refuge. There is one Munitions Response Site (MRS) at the Castroville Amphibious Training Area, the MRS 01 (a bombing target) which consists of 649 acres. According to the Archives Search Report bombing target was used for practice bombing.

Media Sampled and Findings

Surface Water — In 2009, two samples reported no detection.

Appropriate Actions

Not Applicable. All samples were below the EPA and DoD Preliminary Remediation Goal of 15 ppb.